

House knows, Presidential elections were recently held in Panama and, like its other neighbors, free, fair and transparent elections were also the rule of the day. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Panama as well for their commitment to the democratic process and to congratulate President Moscoso on her election as the first female President of Panama. We want to wish her well and offer our Subcommittee's help in any way to continue a strong U.S.-Panama relationship into the new millennium.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the celebration of their independence, I want to congratulate each of these nations for the progress they are making and to express my hope that they continue on this impressive path. All of the nations and people of Central America should be proud of what they have accomplished to date. We encourage them to continue down this path and we continue to offer our strong encouragement and assistance.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE L. CUMMINGS
AND MARY CONSTANTINO

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to acknowledge the outstanding contributions Claire L. Cummings and Mary Constantino have made to the second congressional district of Massachusetts, to our state, our nation, and the Democratic party. In particular I would like to recognize their longstanding service on the Milford, Massachusetts Democratic Committee.

The Milford Democratic Committee assists the Democratic party and their candidates in reaching the citizens of Milford with the message of the Democratic party. Both Claire and Mary have worked hard to extend the message of the Democratic party into the Town of Milford.

Claire L. Cummings has been an active member of the Milford Democratic Committee for thirty five years. Prior to being a member of the Democratic Committee Claire was actively involved in her community, attending and participating in Milford Town Meetings. She was also the first woman in Milford to run for the office of selectman. It was at this time the Milford Democratic Committee asked Claire to become a member of the committee. Claire L. Cummings has made it a point to attend every Democratic state convention, and particularly remembers the National Presidential Convention of Lyndon B. Johnson. Outside of politics she was involved in other community service groups such as: the Democratic Women on Wheels and the Telephone Pioneers of America.

Mary Constantino began her political career at the early age of eighteen. Mary has worked hard for the Milford Democratic Committee, going door to door asking for votes. She has also been influential in persuading many to join the Democratic party. In all of her thirty five years of membership she has never missed a Democratic convention held in Milford, Massachusetts. Mary is also involved in her community in many other ways. She has been a member of the Grandparents for Lit-

eracy group, and was honored by the Jaycees for her work with children. She was named Woman of the Year by the American Heart Association, in honor of her eighteen years of service. Mary Constantino is an asset to the town of Milford and the state of Massachusetts.

Both Claire L. Cummings and Mary Constantino are assets to the Milford Democratic Committee, their state, and our nation. I am pleased to recognize the contributions of both of these women to the second congressional district of Massachusetts.

IN HONOR OF ANNUNCIATION PARISH
COMMUNITY IN CELEBRATION
OF 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Annunciation Parish Community as it celebrates its 75th year of dedicated service to the West Cleveland community.

The Annunciation Parish Community, through its "willingness to bear Jesus to the world," has served as a center for the religious expression and the spiritual growth of the West 130th and Bennington communities.

Through the rite of Baptism as well as conversions, Annunciation has brought many members of the community into the Catholic faith. Throughout the years, Annunciation has served as a center of spiritual and religious growth within the community through the rites of Eucharist and Confirmation. Also, Annunciation unites Catholic members of the community through marriage, offers spiritual pardons through confession, as well as memorializes the deceased through Christian burial.

Annunciation has also educated generations of young men, women and children who have passed through the residential school over the last seventy years. In addition to teaching children the fundamental academic disciplines, Annunciation has taught the importance of service to the community. Currently, Annunciation is involved in helping to bring the Belaire-Puritas Development Corporation and the Meals-On-Wheels to the area, providing their end of the month Neighborhood Meal, and monthly Food Collection and Hunger Collection, both of which are very supportive of the West Park Community Cupboard.

It is evident that the Annunciation Parish Community has, over the years, played a crucial role in the community, and that its many years of service have been an invaluable contribution to the West Cleveland community.

HONORING SISTER BRIGID
DRISCOLL

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Brigid Driscoll for a lifetime of service and commitment to education. Sister Brigid has pledged her life's work to furthering

educational opportunity, especially for young women. She began her career at Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York as a mathematics professor, and later became Academic Dean and Director of Continuing Education. In June, she retired from her twenty year post as President of Marymount College.

I was moved to recognize the great accomplishments of Sister Brigid because she has been an important force in my life. Marymount College is my alma mater. Sister Brigid served as an advisor in my residence hall, Gailhac Hall, where her wisdom and guidance were often sought by myself and the other young women in the hall. Sister Brigid was the kind of leader who tested the will of the young women like myself. Back in those days, we all thought we knew everything. As we pushed the edge of the envelope, Sister Brigid pushed us right back. Sister Brigid was very familiar with some of the antics college women are inclined to participate in. One memorable evening, after a fire started in the lounge of Gailhac Hall, some of us went to alert Sister Brigid, however, it was the night before April Fools Day and she laughed it off, telling us to just "put it out." After a few more minutes, when she began to smell the smoke herself, she burst out of her room, complete with her elaborate habit, and helped us carry the burning couch out to the patio. Clearly, Sister Brigid was developing her crisis management skills as she led the young women of Gailhac Hall.

She challenged us, while still allowing us to think for ourselves and determine our own path. She inspired those around her to work harder and strive to reach our fullest potential. Through her example, she instilled in us the virtues of public service. Sister Brigid demonstrated to us a lifetime commitment to furthering the ideals one holds dear and that, indeed, a woman is capable of achieving anything.

As the leader of Marymount College, a liberal arts college for women, she sought to provide a rich educational environment where women are encouraged to lead and learn. As an ardent proponent of state and financial federal assistance, and the Director of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and the New York State Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities, she has worked tirelessly to promote the benefits of private institutions of higher learning, and to increase access for young people of all backgrounds.

Private colleges and universities have been the choice of Sister Brigid's own educational foundation. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Marymount Manhattan College, a Master's degree from Catholic University, and a PhD in Mathematics from City University of New York. This year, in recognition of her distinguished service to the school, Marymount College bestowed on her the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Sister Brigid is truly an educational visionary. In 1975, she founded the Weekend College at Marymount College. It was the first full Bachelor's Degree program in the area for working adults. She recognized that her community needed higher education that was accessible and convenient for working men and women. Because of her, hundreds of adults have earned their college degrees, and have accomplished what may have been a distant goal at one time. Many people see problems,